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# Determination of Duty Cycle for Energy Storage Systems in a Renewables (Solar) Firming Application

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# Determination of Duty Cycle for Energy Storage Systems in a Renewables (Solar) Firming Application

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#### **Abstract**

This report supplements the document, "Protocol for Uniformly Measuring and Expressing the Performance of Energy Storage Systems," issued in a revised version in April 2016 (see [4]), which will include the renewables (solar) firming application for an energy storage system (ESS). This report provides the background and documentation associated with the determination of a duty cycle for an ESS operated in a renewables (solar) firming application for the purpose of measuring and expressing ESS performance in accordance with the ESS performance protocol.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of Dr. Imre Gyuk, program manager for the DOE Energy Storage Systems Program. The authors would also like to express their appreciation to all the stakeholders who participated as members of the Renewables (Solar) Firming Subgroup. Without their thoughtful input and recommendations, the definitions, metrics, and duty cycle provided in this report would not have been possible. A complete listing of members of the Renewables (Solar) Firming Subgroup appears in the first chapter of this report. Special recognition should go to the staffs at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) in collaborating on this effort. In particular, Mr. David Conover and Dr. Vish Viswanathan of PNNL and Dr. Summer Ferreira of SNL were especially helpful in their suggestions for the determination of a duty cycle for the Renewables (Solar) Firming application.

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#### **NOMENCLATURE**

AC Alternating Current

ARRA American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009

AUX Auxiliary input

BAT Battery

BESS Battery Energy Storage System

CABs Container of Advanced carbon Battery cells

CSV Comma Separated Values
CDF Cumulative Density Function

CI Daily Clearness Index

DC Direct Current

DOE Department of Energy

EPRI Electric Power Research Institute

ESS Energy Storage Systems

IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

kW kilo-Watts
kWh kilo-Watt hours
MA Moving Average
MW Mega-Watts

MWh Mega-Watt hours

NNMC Northern New Mexico College

PJM PJM Interconnection

PMF Probability Mass Function

PNM Public Service Company of New Mexico
PNNL Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

PV Photovoltaic

SNL Sandia National Laboratories

SoC State of Charge

UNM University of New Mexico

V Volts

VAC Volts Alternating Current
VDC Volts Direct Current
VI Daily Variability Index

VRLA Valve Regulated Lead Acid

#### 1. BACKGROUND

When the initial effort was undertaken to develop a protocol for measuring and expressing the performance of energy storage systems ("ESS") in early 2012, it was recognized that, due to the range of ESS applications, not all ESS applications could be addressed at the same time. As a result, it was determined to focus on those applications considered to have the highest priority (i.e., peak shaving and frequency regulation), and after completion of an initial protocol the application of the protocol to additional ESS applications would be pursued. After publication of the initial protocol (see [1] and updated version [2]), the protocol working group was polled to determine which applications they felt should be addressed by the next edition of the protocol. The application of ESS for islanded microgrids and photovoltaic ("PV") smoothing received the highest level of support. The working group was polled to identify members who were interested in participating in subgroups to develop criteria for each of these new applications. Following the completion of these two applications, additional applications were identified as being very important to the working group. These applications included Volt/Var support. renewables (solar) firming, power quality, and frequency control. The names and affiliations of those who participated in the Renewables (Solar) Firming Subgroup appear in Table 1. The document describing the duty cycle determination for the PV smoothing application is in [3].

From the formation of the renewables (solar) firming subgroup (April 9, 2015) until the completion of their work (July 7, 2015) there were 4 webinar meetings, many e-mail exchanges among subgroup members, and several drafts leading up to the proposed enhancements to the Protocol to cover the renewables (solar) firming application. These enhancements focused on needed terms and definitions, metrics applicable to ESS performance, the applicable duty cycle for the ESS, and the manner in which operational data is to be captured; from this data, performance of the ESS would be reported.

There were several factors discussed within the subgroup that needed to be decided upon as either within or outside the scope of the protocol. Modeling, while considered important, was not considered a use case, and hence was considered to be outside the scope of the protocol. It was also agreed that the effort would not include determining failure mechanisms for the ESS because those were not considered to be within the scope of the protocol. Periodic capacity tests were considered to be a good proxy for the state of health of the ESS. In addition, safety related issues were not considered, as they are also outside the scope of the protocol.

The renewables (firming) subgroup spent considerable time discussing and developing an appropriate duty cycle for assessing the performance of an ESS in a renewables (solar) firming application. Data used in developing the renewables (solar) firming duty cycle was obtained from the PNM Prosperity Project, with permission from PNM (see Section 4). The renewables (solar) firming subgroup discussed which metrics are applicable to measuring and expressing the performance of an ESS in a renewables (solar) firming application. It was determined that all of the metrics applicable to PV smoothing, included in the April 2016 revision of the Protocol [4], were relevant. After finalizing the duty cycle, the renewables (solar) firming subgroup discussed the characteristics of the duty cycle that should be reported in this document (see Section 7). Most of these characteristics relate to the variability of the ESS tracking signal as well as some of the duty cycle statistical properties. The revised version of the Protocol, which incorporates the renewables (solar) firming application was published in April 2016 and appears in [4].

Table 1. Participants in Renewables (Solar) Firming Subgroup

Name	Affiliation
Schoenwald, David	Sandia National Laboratories
Balliet, Ryan	Bosch Energy Storage Solutions LLC
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Byrne, Ray	Sandia National Laboratories
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Conover, David	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Favela, Roberto	El Paso Electric Company
Ferreira, Summer	Sandia National Laboratories
Fife, Mike	Demand Energy Networks
Franks, Ryan	National Electric Manufacturers Association
Fribush, David	Pacific Gas & Electric
Gully, Ben	DNV-GL
Hernandez, Jaci	Sandia National Laboratories
Hone, Matt	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Jezierski, Kelly	Next Energy Center Electric Applications Incorporated
Karner, Don	Next Energy Center Electric Applications Incorporated
Kaucic, Robert	GE Power & Water
Kaun, Ben	EPRI
Maguire, Greg	JuiceBox Energy, Inc.
McLellan, Nick	Johnson Controls Inc.
Mulder, Greg	Coffman Electrical Equipment
Murphy, Kelly	Steffes Corporation
Nichols, David	DKN Consulting

Patterson, Glenn Rosendin Electric, Inc.

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Vechy, Stephen EnerSys

Wang, Shawn Brookhaven National Laboratory

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Wills, Robert for ENGics

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# 2. DEFINITION OF RENEWABLES (SOLAR) FIRMING

From an energy storage systems performance standpoint, the following sentence shall serve as our operating definition of renewables (solar) firming.

The application of an energy storage system (ESS) to provide energy to supplement renewable (solar) generation such that their combination produces steady power output over a desired time window.

Thus, the purpose of renewables (solar) firming is to provide energy (conversely, to absorb energy) when renewable generation falls below some threshold (conversely, exceeds this threshold); performed to provide steady power output over a desired time window, usually a period of multiple hours. Typically, the threshold is derived from the forecasted nominal renewable power generation over the desired time window. Thus, the ESS is compensating for the forecast uncertainty in actual renewable generation during that time window.

The method by which the ESS achieves renewables (solar) firming is to discharge power during periods for which renewable generation falls short of the threshold and absorb power when renewable generation exceeds this threshold.

The key factor that differentiates PV firming from PV smoothing is the time duration over which the ESS is attempting to smooth or firm. PV smoothing is attempting to limit the ramp rate of the power output, which results in applying ESS power over one second to one minute time periods. PV firming is concerned with smoothing (or firming) longer time windows, such as 15 minute to multiple hour time periods. PV smoothing is attempting to limit potentially negative consequences to the grid from highly variable PV power output. PV firming is attempting to "fill in" the gaps in PV power output such that the resultant composite power more closely resembles a "block" of energy with upward slopes, magnitude, downward slopes, and total time duration desired by the grid operator. Specific examples of PV firming can be found in Akhil et al. (2013) [5] and Lemaire et al. (2012) [7].

# 3. METRICS FOR RENEWABLES (SOLAR) FIRMING

The following metrics shall be applied for the purposes of performance testing. To be useful, test procedures must include definitions to narrow the margin for interpretation and increase the repeatability of tests. Terms not defined here shall have their normal dictionary meaning and be applied as such. For a complete list of definitions on ESS performance metrics, see the SNL/PNNL ESS Performance Protocol (2016) [4].

- 1. System Rating at ambient conditions
- 2. Roundtrip Energy Efficiency for the entire ESS
- 3. Duty-Cycle Roundtrip Efficiency for the entire ESS
- 4. Response Time of ESS in responding to a command signal does not include communication delay times
- 5. Ramp Rate
- 6. Energy Capacity
- 7. Energy Capacity Stability
- 8. Reference Signal Tracking how well does ESS track the reference signal; metric definition is: [reference signal power ESS power]^2
- 9. State-of-Charge Excursions
- 10. Operating Temperature Range

**Duty Cycle**. A charge/discharge profile that represents the demands associated with a specific application that is placed on an energy storage system (ESS).

**Ramp Rate.** The rate of change of power delivered to or absorbed by an ESS expressed as a percentage change in rated power over time (percent per second).

**Roundtrip Energy Efficiency.** The useful energy output from an ESS divided by the energy input into the system over one duty cycle, and expressed as a percentage, and including all system losses as well as any electrochemical, electromechanical, or electrical inefficiency involved in the storage of the energy under normal operating conditions.

**Response Time.** The time in seconds it takes an ESS to reach 100 percent of rated power during charge or to reach 100 percent of rated power during discharge from an initial power measurement taken when the ESS is at rest.

**Stored Energy Capacity.** The amount of electric or thermal energy capable of being stored by an ESS expressed as the product of the ESS rated power and the discharge time at rated power.

#### 4. SOURCE OF PV DATA

The data used for this study is from the Public Service Company of New Mexico's Prosperity Electricity Storage Project ("PNM Prosperity").

PNM Prosperity consists of a 500 kW/350 kWh advanced lead-acid battery with integrated supercapacitor (for power smoothing) and a 250 kW/990 kWh advanced lead acid battery (for energy shifting), and is co-located with a 500 kW solar photovoltaic ("PV") resource. The project received American Reinvestment and Recovery Act ("ARRA") funding, and has been operational since 2011. More details and analysis of the project can be found in Roberson, et al (2014) [8] and Willard (2014) [10].

We have received permission from PNM to use both PV and battery power output from PNM Prosperity for this study. This data has a time resolution of one second, and has been archived from 2011 onward. A schematic of the project is depicted in Figure 1.

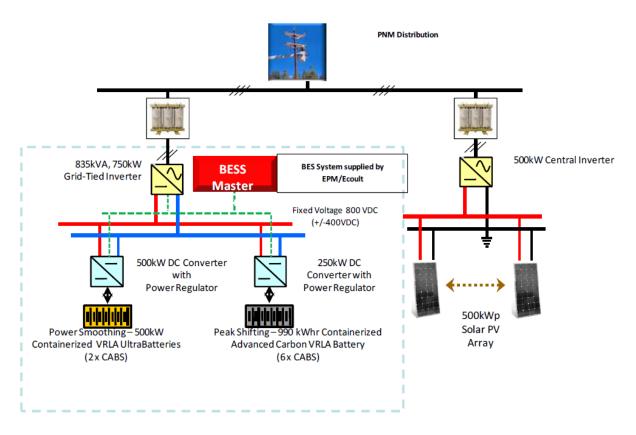


Figure 1: Schematic of the PNM Prosperity Project.

#### 5. PHILOSOPHY OF DUTY CYCLE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

A duty cycle is a charge/discharge profile that represents the demands placed on an energy storage system ("ESS") by a specific application. A renewables (solar) firming duty cycle should take into account what an ESS would need to do on a daily basis to firm PV power output.

From the start we faced a choice: create many different duty cycle profiles to reflect PV generation variability differences due to differences in regions, weather, and time of year, or create one duty cycle profile that represents a challenging, yet realistic, signal. We chose the latter approach because we believe that it is more straightforward, and that designing an ESS for a challenging yet realistic scenario is most appropriate for this application.

A duty cycle that is not stringent enough would encourage the development of systems that are not robust enough to firm PV power output on challenging days. A duty cycle that is too stringent could specify systems that are more capable (and therefore potentially more expensive) than necessary. Since we are concerned with PV output variability when a significant amount of power can be produced, a 10-hour duty cycle (representing the typical daylight hours of significant PV generation) should be sufficient.

We sought to create such a duty cycle profile by splicing together one-hour segments of actual PV generation obtained from different days. These segments were chosen to capture different PV generation scenarios, which we grouped into mostly sunny, partly cloudy, and mostly cloudy days. In order to make the profile challenging, we sought segments that were moderate to high in the level of PV power generation variability.

Given that cloud cover can rapidly change PV output, we determined that having a 1-second PV output time series was best, though more coarse time resolutions up to 15 seconds can suffice for this application. The data collected at the PNM Prosperity site is of one-second time resolution.

To create a challenging duty cycle, it is necessary to have a quantifiable means of determining the variability of PV power output. For this application, we used the Variability Index ("VI"), described in Stein, et al (2012) [9] (additional measures, not used here, can be found in Hoff and Perez (2010) [6]). In the next section, we outline the procedure employed to construct the PV firming duty cycle.

#### 6. PROCESS FOR CONSTRUCTING DUTY CYCLE

We used the following process to construct the renewables (solar) firming duty cycle.

- Step 1: Locate and download files containing time series data for PV power generation daily profiles. Ideally, the data should have a temporal resolution of one second, though resolutions of up to 15 seconds are acceptable. There should be daily generation profiles for different seasons of the year.
- Step 2: Using Excel, Matlab, or other graphical tools, plot the data from these files to observe the range of variability in PV power among the different days and form a "composite" day.
- Step 3: From the composite day, compute the moving average. Time windows in the 5 to 60 minute range are acceptable, with a 15-minute window considered the nominal value.
- Step 4: Construct the PV power residue = Threshold power value PV moving average, where the threshold power value represents the value of the desired "firmed" power.
- Step 5: Duty Cycle will be the normalized values of this residue, w.r.t. ESS rated power, +/- 500 kW in this case.
- Step 6: Assess several characteristics of this signal to be sure that it meets assumptions and desired variability.

We used a number of assumptions in constructing the renewables (solar) firming duty cycle. Our sign convention was that a positive duty cycle value means that the ESS is discharging power, and a negative value means that the ESS is in charging mode. We used a 15-minute window length to compute the moving average of the constructed PV power profile. All ramp rates were computed using 1-minute intervals.

## 7. CHARACTERISTICS OF DUTY CYCLE

Following the process outlined in Section 6, a 10-hour time series for the renewables (solar) firming duty cycle was derived. This time series is graphically depicted in Figure 2.

An Excel spreadsheet containing the full 10-hour time series data for the renewables (solar) firming duty cycle can be downloaded from the link given in Schoenwald (2016) [11].

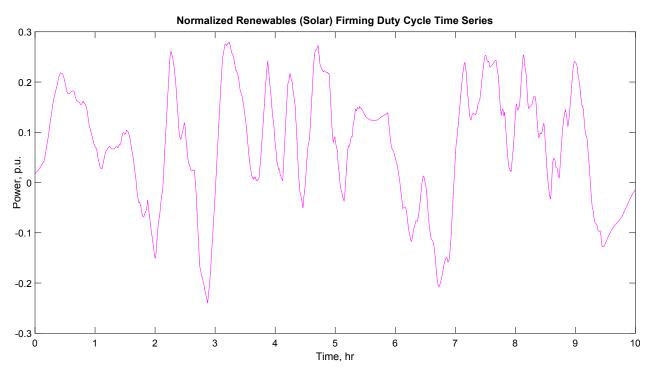


Figure 2: Duty Cycle Signal for Renewables (Solar) Firming Application.

#### 8. CONCLUSIONS

A duty cycle is a charge/discharge profile that represents the demands placed on an energy storage system ("ESS") by a specific application. A renewables (solar) firming duty cycle should take into account what an ESS would need to do on a daily basis to firm PV.

In creating a duty cycle for the renewables (solar) firming application, our overall goal was to have a signal that was challenging yet realistic. Through understanding what an energy storage system tasked with firming PV would need to be able to do, we can get a better sense of the required capacity and characteristics of such a system.

We believe that one can draw the following conclusions:

- 1) Renewables (solar) firming is an energy smoothing application it requires a relatively large energy storage capacity and a moderate to low power rating; and
- 2) The ESS should be designed to perform many charge/discharge cycles per day with little to no degradation in performance.

This methodology of constructing a challenging yet realistic duty cycle can be performed for the particular location and PV system being considered in the renewables (solar) firming application to get precise specifications for the ESS needed. An Excel spreadsheet containing the full 10-hour time series data of the renewables (solar) firming duty cycle can be found from the link given in Schoenwald (2016) [11].

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